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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Roy D. Chapin, Secretary
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
W. M. Steuart, Director

FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930

UNEMPLOYMENT

VOLUME II GENERAL REPORT

UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION, APRIL, 1930
WITH RETURNS FROM THE SPECIAL
CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
JANUARY, 1931

PREPARED BY DR. GEORGE B. L. ARNER
UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF
DR. LEON E. TRUESDELL
Chief Statistician for Population



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REPORTS ON POPULATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

FIFTEENTH DECENNIAL CENSUS: 1930

POPULATION

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Volume II.—GENERAL REPORT—STATISTICS BY SUBJECTS

Volume III.—REPORTS BY STATES, SHOWING THE COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION FOR COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNSHIPS OR OTHER MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Volume I.—UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS BY CLASSES FOR STATES, COUNTIES, AND CITIES

Volume II.—GENERAL REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., November 17, 1932.

SIR: I transmit herewith Volume II of the Fifteenth Census Reports on Unemployment. This volume presents statistics of unemployment by occupation, period of idleness, and marital condition, and statistics of part-time employment from the census of April, 1930, together with a report of the special census of unemployment taken in January, 1931.

The census of unemployment was taken as of April 1, 1930, in conformity with the "Act providing for the Fifteenth Census and for the Apportionment of Representatives in Congress," approved June 18, 1929. The results of the census of unemployment are contained in two volumes, as follows: Volume I, Unemployment Returns by Classes for States, Counties, Urban and Rural Areas, and Cities; and Volume II, General Report on Unemployment.

Both of these unemployment volumes were prepared by Dr. George B. L. Arner, under the general supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, chief statistician for population.

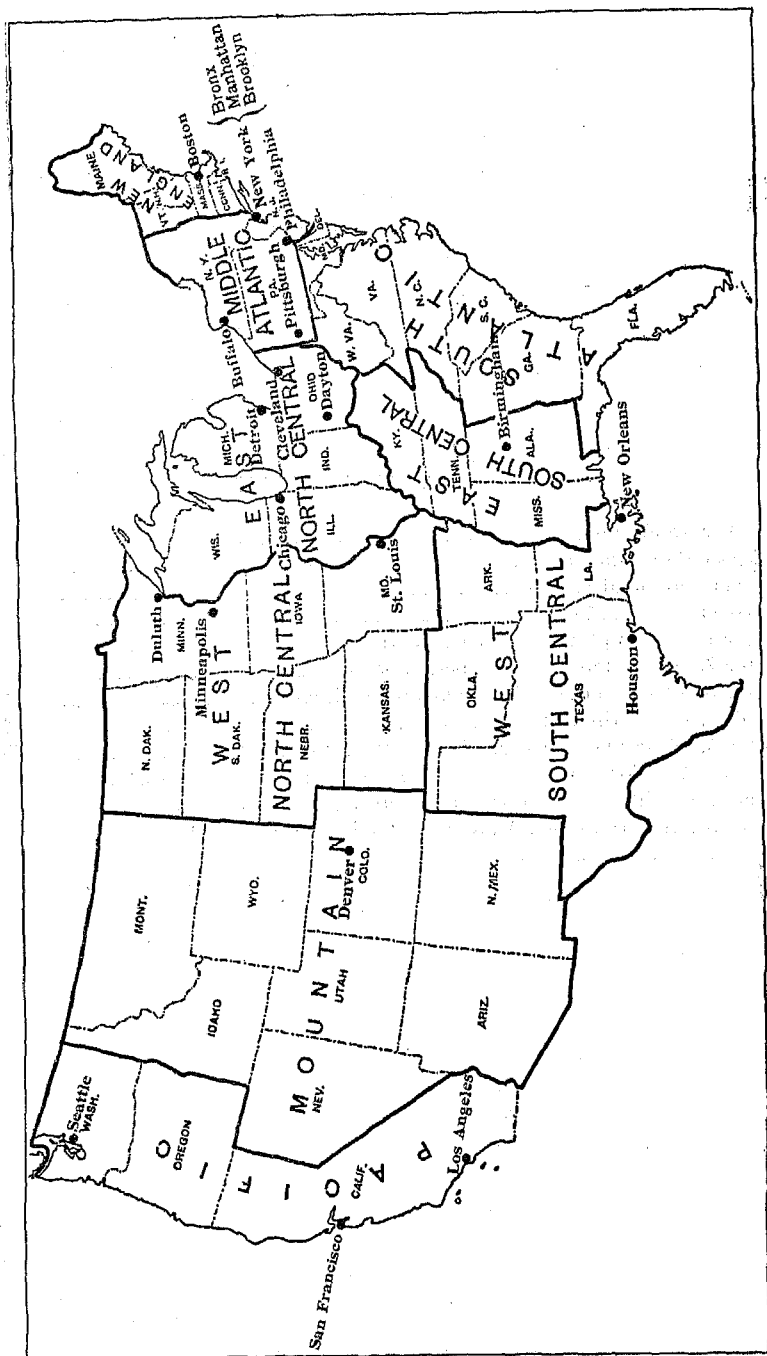
Respectfully,

W. M. STEUART,
Director of the Census.

Hon. ROY D. CHAPIN,
Secretary of Commerce.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The returns from the census of unemployment taken in April, 1930, as a part of the enumeration of the population for the Fifteenth Census, are issued in two volumes of which this volume is the second.

In Volume I the returns from the census of unemployment were presented in seven unemployment classes by sex, for States, and cities of 50,000 or more. For these same areas the two most important classes (designated classes A and B) were shown by sex in tables giving color and nativity, number of weeks idle, reason for idleness, age in 5-year periods, ability to speak English, family relationship, and industry groups. For Southern States and cities these characteristics were also presented separately for Negroes. For counties and for urban places of 10,000 to 50,000, unemployment classes A and B were shown by sex only.

In Volume II of the Unemployment Reports the two most important unemployment classes are presented, by sex and occupation, for States and cities of 100,000 and over. For the United States as a whole, and to a lesser extent for smaller areas, some of the characteristics of these unemployment classes, such as color, nativity, period of idleness, reason for idleness, age, and marital condition, are shown in combination in tables designed to bring out significant facts bearing on the problem of unemployment. In these tables, for example, period of idleness is shown by reason for idleness and by 5-year age periods. This volume also includes the returns from the special enumeration of the unemployed made in 19 cities in January, 1931.

Method of enumeration.—The enumerators for the Fifteenth Census were instructed to ask each person reporting a gainful occupation whether or not he (or she) was at work on the preceding day, or on the last regular working day. If not, the enumerator was instructed to obtain further information and to make entries on a separate unemployment schedule. On this schedule distinction was made between persons having jobs and persons having no jobs of any kind.

For persons having jobs, the questions were:

1. How many weeks since he has worked on that job?
2. Why was he not at work yesterday?
3. Does he lose a day's pay by not being at work?
4. How many days did he work last week?
5. How many days in a full-time week?

For persons having no jobs of any kind, the questions were:

1. Is he able to work?
2. Is he looking for a job?
3. For how many weeks has he been without a job?
4. Reason for being out of a job (or for losing his last job).

The information as to sex, color and nativity, age, marital condition, relationship to the head of the family, and occupation was transcribed to the unemployment schedule from the population schedule.

Unemployment classes.—Since the enumerators were asked to make entries on the unemployment schedule for all persons who were not at work "yesterday," it is obvious that many persons were returned on these schedules who were not "unemployed," in accordance with the general acceptance of the term. It was therefore considered advisable to separate these returns into seven classes in accordance with the answers to the several questions. The primary separation adopted was based on the answer to the question, "Does this person have a job

of any kind?" Those who replied "Yes" were next separated into those idle without pay and those idle with pay. Finally, from those with jobs and idle without pay, were separated those who gave sickness or disability as the reason for idleness, and those who reported themselves as voluntarily idle. Those who had no jobs of any kind were first separated in accordance with the answer of "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Is he able to work?" and those who replied "Yes" to this question were further separated on the basis of the next question, "Is he looking for a job?"

In the following table the unemployment returns in the seven classes thus obtained are presented by sex for the United States, together with the total population, the population 10 years old and over, and the total number of gainful workers; that is, persons reporting a gainful occupation. Each of the classes shown in the table has a definite relation to the unemployment problem, though some of them are composed mainly of persons who would not, even under the most elastic definition, be considered as "unemployed."

UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS BY CLASSES, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1930

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS	Total	Male	Female
Total population.....	122,776,046	62,137,030	60,637,998
Population 10 years old and over.....	98,723,047	49,949,798	48,773,249
Gainful workers (persons reporting a gainful occupation).....	48,820,920	38,077,804	10,752,116
UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS BY CLASSES			
CLASS A.—Persons out of a job, able to work, and looking for a job.....	2,429,082	2,058,738	370,324
Per cent of total population.....	2.0	3.3	0.6
Per cent of gainful workers.....	5.0	5.4	3.4
CLASS B.—Persons having jobs but on lay-off without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle.....	758,585	627,407	131,178
Per cent of total population.....	0.6	1.0	0.2
Per cent of gainful workers.....	1.6	1.6	1.2
CLASS C.—Persons out of a job and unable to work.....	172,061	140,804	31,797
CLASS D.—Persons having jobs but idle on account of sickness or disability.....	278,588	208,278	65,310
CLASS E.—Persons out of a job and not looking for work.....	87,088	61,068	26,020
CLASS F.—Persons having jobs but voluntarily idle, without pay.....	84,595	60,264	24,341
CLASS G.—Persons having jobs and drawing pay, though not at work (on vacation, etc.).....	82,335	63,544	18,791

Class A (persons out of a job, able to work, and looking for a job) which constitutes by far the greater part of the unemployment returns, is made up of those persons who are unemployed in the strictest sense of the term.

Class B (persons having jobs but on lay-off without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle) includes many persons who are working on part time and are therefore better situated than those who have no jobs at all. The question as to whether a man has a job or not has proved to be a difficult one to answer, and class B includes many persons who have been laid off from their jobs for long periods (the tabulation by weeks idle will show how long), some of whom are practically in the same position as those in class A. Nominally, they have a job, but practically they are not receiving any income from that job, and they may have no definite promise as to when that income will be resumed.

Classes C and D are made up of persons unable to work. Their separation from their job is a matter of personal misfortune rather than the result of a scarcity of employment.

Classes E, F, and G are made up for the most part of persons whose idleness is voluntary, and who were included in the unemployment count as an incidental result of the method of selection used. Class E is composed of persons able to work and having no job, who were reported by the enumerator as not looking for work. Class F is made up of persons having jobs and not drawing pay, for whom the reason for idleness was reported to be "voluntary lay-off" or its equivalent. Class G includes all those having jobs who were reported by the enumerator as not losing pay as a result of their idleness, being mainly persons on vacation with pay.

The detailed tabulations shown in this volume are limited to classes A and B. These two classes include practically all persons returned on the unemployment schedules who would be considered as "unemployed" in the commonly accepted meaning of the term.

Areas.—The tabulations presented in this volume are limited to the United States as a whole, the nine geographic divisions, States, and cities of 100,000 and over. All tabulations shown for the United States as a whole were made for States and cities of 100,000 and over, but for lack of space the detailed combinations could not be presented separately for these areas. Tables for these areas can, however, be supplied by the Bureau of the Census upon payment of the cost of the clerical work involved in making them up.